



State Legislative Update for the Week of April 27- May 1, 2015

Monday, April 27, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

The House passed SF 888, the Omnibus State Government Finance bill, which was returned to the Senate. The Senate moved to not concur in the amendments by the House to SF 888, so a Conference Committee of 5 members will be appointed on the part of the Senate. Those appointed are Senators Saxhaug, Pappas, Carlson, Wiklund and Metzen.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

HF 283, a bill regarding Camp Ripley sentinel landscape designation and coordinating committee establishment. The bill was placed on Special Orders, received its third reading and passed on a vote of 59-0.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

Committee Hearings

Committee: Senate Capital Investment

Chair: Sen..LeRoy Stumpf

Agenda:

SF 2118 (Stumpf): Capital investment bill (Governor's bonding bill). Of veterans interest is \$11M for asset preservation, renovations and new construction at National Guard Armories across the state and \$5M for asset preservation at the Veterans Homes across the state and to plan the repair of the bridge on the Minneapolis campus. The bill was laid over.

Committee: **Senate Taxes**

Chair: Sen. Rod Skoe

Agenda:

SF 826 (Skoe): Omnibus Tax Bill. Of veterans interest, the bill provides a nonrefundable tax credit for employers that hire qualifying unemployed veterans. A veteran must have received unemployment compensation at any time within one year prior to, and must have been unemployed on, the date of hire. The veteran must be a Minnesota resident on the date of hire and be paid wages that are attributable to Minnesota. The credit amount is ten percent of the wages paid to the veteran employee, up to \$2,500. Effective beginning in tax year 2016. The bill was passed, as amended, and sent to the General Orders.

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

HF 848, Omnibus Tax Bill was debated on the House floor. Of veterans interest:

- Allows a new income tax subtraction for individuals who receive military retirement pay. The subtraction equals \$1,000 for each year or portion of a year of active service, up to a maximum of twenty years of service. The subtraction would apply to retirement pay for service in the active and reserve components of the military.
- Allows a subtraction from taxable income of 20 percent of social security benefits that are included in federal taxable income in tax year 2015 and phases in until 2019, when 100 percent of benefits would be subtracted.
- Provides that the surviving spouse of (a) a permanently and totally disabled veteran, or (b) a service member who dies due to a service-related cause, will receive the \$300,000 homestead market value exclusion each year, until the spouse remarries or disposes of the property. Currently, the benefit expires after eight years.
- Provides a class rate reduction from 1.5% to 1.0% for property of non-profit community service organizations that are owned or operated by congressionally chartered veterans' organizations (American Legion and VFW). The class rate reduction would expire after ten years.

The bill, as amended, was placed on final passage and passed on a vote of 74-58.

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Anderson, P.; Anderson, M., and Franson introduced:

HF 2284: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for capital improvements to Eagle's Healing Nest.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

The Speaker announced the appointment of the House Conferees for SF 888, the Omnibus State Finance bill. They are Representatives Anderson, S; Laine; O'Driscoll; Albright; and Loonan.

Friday, May 1, 2015

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

Conference Committee Hearing

SF 888, Omnibus State Government Finance bill.

Conferees: Senators Saxhaug; Carlson; Wikilund; Metzen; and Pappas

Conferees: Representatives Anderson, S; Laine; O'Driscoll; Albright; and Loonan

Time: 30 Minutes after the last body adjourns

Room: 5 State Office Building

Agenda:

Walk through of spreadsheets and side by sides.

**Upcoming Committee Hearings of Veterans Interest
Week of May 4 - 8, 2015**